

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03452 01 OF 02 200703Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ICA-11 EB-08 L-03 CCO-00 CIAE-00
OTPE-00 FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 COME-00
BIB-01 /053 W
-----056112 200727Z /11

R 191341Z MAY 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7401
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BERLIN 03452

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETEL, GW, GE, US
SUBJECT: BARTLETT PROPOSAL CONCERNING LW FREQUENCY
209KHZ AND RIAS.

REF: STATE 120352

1. MR. PAUL BARTLETT PAID A CALL MAY 16 ON THE DCM TO DISCUSS FORMER'S INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A US PRIVATELY-OWNED RADIO STATION IN BERLIN. BARTLETT SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT HIS INTEREST IN LONG-RANGE FREQUENCY 209, INDICATING THAT HE DISAGREES WITH THE US GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON GIVING UP ITS RIGHT TO THE FREQUENCY AS WELL AS TO THE USE OF FACILITIES ON THIS FREQUENCY.

2. BARTLETT SPENT MOST OF THE TIME OUTLINING HIS INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A US PRIVATELY-OWNED COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TV FACILITY IN WEST BERLIN. HE NOTED THAT RIAS NOW HAS THREE FREQUENCIES BUT ONLY TWO PROGRAMS. HE WOULD
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 03452 01 OF 02 200703Z

BE INTERESTED EITHER IN THE UNUSED FREQUENCY OR POSSIBLY BUILDING HIS OWN FACILITY. HIS PURPOSE IN DOING SO, HE SAID, WOULD BE TWO-FOLD; 1) TO PROVIDE COMPETITION TO WHAT HE FEELS ARE INCREASINGLY ANTIQUATED AND OUTMODED PROGRAMMING CONCEPTS BY RIAS (AND OTHER STATIONS SUCH AS ZFB) AND 2) TO SHOW THE US FLAG IN THE CITY.

3. IT WAS BARTLETT'S CONTENTION THAT RIAS ENGAGED IN PROGRAMMING THAT WAS NOT PARTICULARLY INTERESTING, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WAS TOO POLITICALLY ORIENTED WITH RESPECT TO EAST BERLIN AND EAST GERMANY. HE THOUGHT A PRIVATE COMMERCIAL STATION COULD ACCOMPLISH BETTER THE GOAL OF MAKING PEOPLE IN EAST BERLIN AND EAST GERMANY AWARE OF LIFE IN THE WEST THROUGH THE USE OF A "SOFT SELL" APPROACH RATHER THAN THE KIND OF POLITICAL REPORTING THAT RIAS ALLEGEDLY ENGAGES IN. IN HIS VIEW, THIS APPROACH MIGHT BE LESS OFFENSIVE TO GDR THAN THE RIAS APPROACH, ALTHOUGH HE HAD NO PARTICULAR QUALMS ABOUT UPSETTING THE GDR IF IT WAS IN OUR BROADER INTEREST TO DO SO. BARTLETT WANTED TO KNOW HOW THE DCM THOUGHT THE GDR WOULD REACT TO SUCH STATION.

4. IN RESPONSE, THE DCM NOTED THAT THE GDR CONSTANTLY IS FACED WITH TV AND RADIO TRANSMISSIONS FROM WEST BERLIN AND WEST GERMANY AND ALSO HAS MILLIONS OF WEST GERMAN VISITORS EVERY YEAR; AS A RESULT, THERE IS A CONSTANT FLOW OF INFORMATION, AND PEOPLE HERE THUS HAVE A BETTER OPPORTUNITY THAN OTHERS IN EASTERN EUROPE TO KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE WEST. IT WAS DCM'S VIEW THAT PEOPLE IN EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR, WHO HAVE THE CHOICE OF THEIR OWN MEDIA BROADCASTS OR THOSE FROM THE WEST, LISTEN EXTENSIVELY TO WESTERN MEDIA FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, INCLUDING OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS IN THE GDR WHICH THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 03452 01 OF 02 200703Z

DO NOT RECEIVE FROM THEIR OWN MEDIA AS WELL AS FOR REASONS OF MORE INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING PROGRAMS. THERE WAS NO DOUBT IN THE DCM'S MIND THAT GDR AUTHORITIES DID NOT LIKE THE EXISTENCE OF AND EASY ACCESSIBILITY EAST GERMAN'S HAD TO WESTERN RADIO/TV. THIS MADE REGIME'S LIFE CONSIDERABLY MORE COMPLICATED.

5. DCM DOUBTED THAT REGIME WOULD BE ANY MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD A PRIVATE STATION THAT WOULD PRESENT THE WESTERN OR AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE IN A "MORE PALATABLE" FORM. THERE WERE ALSO SUCH IMPORTANT QUESTIONS AS WHAT BARTLETT CONCEIVED OF AS THE MAIN AUDIENCE (EAST GERMANS OR WEST BERLINERS) FOR THE STATION, THE CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMMING, AND IN WHICH LANGUAGE BROADCASTS WOULD TAKE PLACE. IF DIRECTED TOWARD A GERMAN-SPEAKING AUDIENCE, THE REGIME WOULD STILL BE CONCERNED; IF, HOWEVER, THE BROADCASTS WERE IN ENGLISH, THERE MIGHT BE LESS OF A CONCERN, ALTHOUGH, AS BARTLETT HAD POINTED OUT, THERE WERE PROBABLY INCREASING NUMBERS OF YOUNG EDUCATED EAST GERMANS WHO KNEW ENGLISH AND MIGHT BE INCLINED TO LISTEN TO SUCH BROADCASTS. BARTLETT DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE QUESTION OF WHAT THE PRIMARY AUDIENCE TARGET MIGHT BE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM BARTLETT, THE DCM SAID HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES WHETHER US INTERESTS WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IN THE GDR BY HAVING A COMMERCIAL STATION AS OPPOSED TO RIAS IN WEST BERLIN. DCM, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAD NO COMPETENCE OR AUTHORITY FOR RIAS OR WHETHER PRIVATE COMMERCIAL STATIONS COULD BE ESTABLISHED IN WEST BERLIN. THIS WAS A MATTER FOR ALLIED AUTHORITIES IN WEST BERLIN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BERLIN 03452 02 OF 02 200658Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00
FCC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 ICA-11 COME-00 BIB-01
/053 W

-----055985 200728Z /11

R 191341Z MAY 78 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH
USMISSION USBERLIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 02 OF 02 BERLIN 03452

7. BARTLETT INDICATED THAT HE INTENDED TO PURSUE THE MATTER FURTHER, AND NOTED THAT HE WOULD BE TALKING TO THE DCM AT OUR EMBASSY IN BONN AND ALSO WANTED TO BE IN TOUCH WITH OUR DCM IN BRUSSELS. BOLEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RADIO STATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN03452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780212-0830
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780542/aaaabixh.tel
Line Count: 160
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b538c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 STATE 120352
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2643610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BARTLETT PROPOSAL CONCERNING LW FREQUENCY 209KHZ AND RIAS.
TAGS: ETEL, GE, GC, US, (BARTLETT, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b538c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014